GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3253
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY SERVICE FOR FARMERS
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a new Agro-Meteorological Advisory Service to offer advice to farmers and ensure higher agricultural productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the said service is likely to benefit the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Government has launched District level Agro-meteorological Advisory Service (DAAS) in India since 1st June, 2008 (beginning of monsoon season) for providing more precise advise to farmers. India Meteorological Department (IMD) in the Ministry of Earth Sciences has started district level quantitative weather forecast up to 5 days from 1st June, 2008 and the products comprise of forecasts for 7 weather parameters viz., rainfall, maximum and minimum temperatures, wind speed and direction, relative humidity and cloudiness. In addition, weekly cumulative rainfall forecast is also provided. Based on these forecast products and the available crop information, district-wise agro-advisories are prepared. These advisories are disseminated to the farmers through mass media dissemination (All India Radio, Doordarshan, Print media) as well as Internet (web pages of IMD, State Agricultural Universities etc.) through district level intermediaries.

(c): This service enables the farmers to take timely decision on intercultural operations at field levels. Intercultural operations include cultivar selection, land preparation, seed treatment, sowing, irrigation scheduling, fertilization applications, hoeing & weeding, pesticide/insecticides spary, harvest and post harvest activities.